The cost of production taken into account includes not only the paid-out costs but also imputed value of owned assets including land and family labour for which the farmer does not incur cash expenses. While fixing the support prices, it is ensured that these prices cover._ cost of production and also provide a reasonable margin of profit.

Prices of power tillers and other agricultural implements

2159. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that power tillers and other agricultural implements produced in the country are available at a cheaper rate in other countries; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV); (a) and (b) Prices of power tillers and agricultural implements produced in the country depend upon their capabilities and technical specifications. Further the incidence of levies and export incentives for Indian manufactured products has to he assessed on individual item basis. Therefore, a comparison of prices is not possible unless the items are specified and technical specifications are known.

दृष्टिहीन व्यक्तियों को रोजगार

2160. श्री सन्तोष बागड़ोदिया : क्या कल्याण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि पिछले तीन वर्षों के दौरान विकलांग व्यक्तियों में से ऐसे दृष्टिहीन व्यक्तियों की वर्षवार संख्या कितनी है जिन्हें रोजगार उपलब्ध किया गया है ?

कल्याण मंत्रालय में उप मंत्री (श्रीमती सुमति ओरांव) : रोजगार कार्यालयों तथा विकलांगों के लिए विशेष रोजगार कार्यालयों के माध्यम से जिन नेत्रहीन व्यक्तियों को रोजगार प्रदान किया गया उनकी संख्या 1985 में 385, 1986 में 529 और 1987 (जून, 1987 तक) में 168 थी। इसके अतिरिक्त, दिल्ली तथा इसके आसपास विभिन्न केन्द्रीय मंत्रालयों/विभागों और सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के उपक्रमों में काफी समय से खाली पड़ी रिक्तियों को भरने के लिए शुरू की गई विशेष भर्ती के परिणामस्वरूप, 1987 के दौरान, 269 नेत्रहीनों की नियुक्ति हेतु सिफारिश की गई थी।

Supply of drinking water

2161. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a study made by the World Bank recently revealed that more than 1.5 billion people, about one third of the World population, still have no access to safe drinking water and India ranks first among these country;

(b) whether any measures have also been suggested in the study report for providing drinking water to such people;

(c) if so, what are the deta'lfl thereof and whether Government have examined these suggestions; and

(d) if so, what steps are being taken t_0 implement these measures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEV* LOPMENT (SHRI DALRIR SINGH): (a) to (d) This Ministry is not aware of such a study by the World Bank, as it hag not been received so far. However, on the basis of the information obtained from the State Governments and the Union Territories, more than 79 per cent of the urbaft

population and 73 per cent of the rural population have been provided with safe drinking water supply facilities. Since water supply is a State subject, necessary measures are being taken by the State Governments and the Union Territories to extent the facility to the remaining population subject to the availability of resour-«es.

Software development programme of Doordarshan

2162. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA; Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether software development programme of the Doordarshan is lagging behind and most of the expansion taking place has only iesult-ed into frustration for viewers; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER. OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) During the last five years there has been tremendous growth in the TV service specially in providing TV signals to the various parts of the country. Due t_0 this Software development has not besn able to keep pace with Hardware development of TV. Expansion of TV relay service was given more consideration during this period so that TV cou^d reach the masses. Also, the availability of programmes from private $producer_s$ did to some extent delay the vigourous action to develop software by Doordarshan.

(b) More emphasis is now being laid on the development of software during the Eighth Plan. Even during the remaining period of 7th Plan it is proposed to set up studio facilities in the Capitals of some States and the number of Programme Producing Kendras will go up from the present 18 to 48 after completion of the Seventh Plan Schemes. The Central Production Centre in New Delhi has also started functioning and technically and content-wise quality programmes are expected to be produced. Simultaneously, efforts are also being made to organise training|reorienta-tion work-shops to enable the producers to bettej their knowledge and skills.

Uniform standards for training of professionals in th© field of rehabilitation of handicapped

2163. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of WELFARK be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Re habilitation Council has come up'to enforce uniform standards for train ing of professionals in the field of rehabilitation of handicapped; and

(b) if so*, what is the outcome there of?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUMATI ORAON): (a) Yes. Sir.

(b) The framing courses developed by the Rehabilitation Council during 1986-87 and 1987-88 are annexed.

Statement

(a) Training Courses developed during 1986-87—

(i) B.S.C. Course in Hearing, Language and Speech.

(ii) Diploma Course in Hearing, Language and Speech.

(iii) Degree Course fo'r Teachers B. Ed. (H.I)-A Post Graduate Level Course.

(iv) Teachers Training Diploma Course in Hearing Impaired B. Ed. (H.I.).